

# AFU Newsletter

issue 38 --- March 1995

## Swedish committee to investigate USO incidents

On February 23, 1995, the Swedish government appointed a six-headed high-level civilian-military committee to review the frequent incidents of submarine violations of Swedish waters, particularly during the 1980s. Rumour has it that more than 6.000 reports are on file with the Swedish Navy.

The new committee will have an exclusive right to view all secret information, but will not have access to top secret documents. Head of the committee is **Dr. Hans G. Forsberg**, former head of the Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA) and secretary is **General Bengt Wallroth**, former head of the Defence Staff's security department and Försvarets Radioanstalt (FRA), the top secret Swedish equivalent of the American NSA. The committee will also include **Anna Christensen** (a professor of civil law), **Kerstin Fredga** (astronomer and head of the Swedish Space board), **Göran Grimwall** (a professor of physics) and **Curt Persson** (head of the union of government employees). The final report of the committee will be "complete and open" and is expected by January 1, 1996.

## Åke Franzén 1936-1995

On February 13, 1995, Swedish ufologist and fortean **Åke Franzén** died in his Stockholm home at the age of 58. Åke Franzén was an early correspondent of **John Keel** and **Bob Rickard** (Fortean Times). He became wellknown for his translations of ghost flier reports from the 1930's published by Keel and for translations of UFO cases published by FSR and Fortean Times.

Åke Franzén personally visited several internationally known flap areas such as **Point Pleasant, West Virginia** (site of the mid-60's report of "Mothman" sightings) and **Warminster** in the UK. He developed a trans-Atlantic love affair with one of the female "Mothman" witnesses.

Åke Franzén was intensely caught by UFOs, science fiction and fortean themes, always having a humorous glimpse in his eyes. Through 22 years Åke was a source of inspiration to "the AFU gang". His collection of books, American and British magazines, correspondence and photos was donated to AFU by Åke's surviving daughter. The collection includes the signed copy of Keel's "Operation Trojan Horse" that Åke treasured.

## 1994 statistics: 468 Swedish reports

The **UFO-Sweden national report centre** at Uppsala recorded 468 new and retrospective reports in 1994. This is probably the largest number of reports in a single year since the organization was formed in 1970. A large number of 1994 cases are still under investigation & evaluation and a reliable number of "true UFOs" vs. "IFOs" cannot be given at this point in time. By comparison, UFO-Sweden recorded 142 reports in 1992, and 245 in 1993. So far, only six reports received in 1993 have been assessed as "true UFOs".

Reports are received on the report centre's 24-hours-a-day phone, by UFO-Sweden's **twenty-two local groups** and by **UFO-Sweden's field investigators** and contacts throughout the country. Reports are also routinely submitted to UFO-Sweden by **Arne Gjärdman** of the **Research Institute of National Defence (FOA)**, who manages the military UFO report line on 10 % of his working time. In the 1990's a close co-operation has developed between FOA and UFO-Sweden.

Promising reports are referred to - and investigated by - one of UFO-Sweden's **more than 70 accredited field investigators**, spread all over the country. Field investigators are trained - since the mid-1970's - at **annual training courses**. UFO-Sweden has developed it's own **eight-page questionnaire**, one of the most detailed and investigative-driven report forms in the world.

Each report is assessed by one out of **three assessment groups**. These three groups are small, five-headed committees formed by **experienced field investigators**. Each member of the assessment group has one vote. A report can only be judged as a "true UFO" if a majority of the five members are in agreement. The work of the three assessment groups are ruled by a set of guide-lines.

Many cases are ruled as "hard-to-judge", most often because there are pieces missing in the investigation. One common reason is that the report was too old for a reliable investigation.

Summaries of all reports are published in a special (Swedish) newsletter, **Rapportnytt**, and important cases are reviewed in detail in the glossy magazine **UFO-Aktuellt**, published 4 times/year.

All case files are permanently filed with Archives for UFO research (AFU). Here the researcher can thumb through all cases investigated by ufologists, by the military, or reported to the media. The more than 12.000 reports are sorted by date and time-of-the-day. A new database will make it possible to search the files by many factors.

## Database of 12.000 Scandinavian cases

Since 1989 AFU and UFO-Sweden has developed a chronological report file of more than 12.000 cases. The chronological file comprises all Swedish cases reported to civilian and military sources during this century, and before.

Starting two years ago, Swedish cases have been entered into a **dBase IV database**. This enormous task was made possible by 1) engaging people who are out-of-work in a so called **ALU project** and, 2) a grant - from a private sponsor - for buying "old-age" 286 second-hand computers.

"ALU" is a Swedish government scheme to keep out-of-work people active by engaging them in "projects that would not normally be done", i.e. non-commercial projects. ALU employees get their normal compensation from the employment bureau. AFU has had twenty people employed for 4- to 7-months periods. So far, eleven of them have been involved with the computing project.

The computer file records **all known Swedish reports**. Each case is assigned a simple index, from 1 to 5, depending on **the quality of data and investigation** so that - in the future - the wheat may be sorted from the chaff. The overall objective has been to create a database that **represents the sociological, Swedish UFO phenomenon as a whole**, whether IFOs, fantasies or "true UFOs". We estimate that less than 10 % of the cases have been assigned the index 3 or 4 (good quality cases) while the majority is indexed as 1 and 2 (low quality cases). So far, no case has met our criteria for index 5.

The computer file includes a phenomenological classification for each report, date and time (even cases with vague date/time estimates are entered), place name, county, map reference, duration, number of witnesses, a short description, source references, etc. Further, the database includes **almost 100 detail codes** similar to those used by Willy Smith's UNICAT project. Codes are assigned to each case where appropriate. Categories of cases (i.e. photos, EM interferences or high-altitude sightings) may be extracted from the file.

We view the database as an **"intelligence file"** and therefore it also includes submarine/USO reports, forscan incidents, ghost fliers and missile sightings, more of which will be coded in the coming phases of the project. We have also started to code Norwegian reports into the file. All Swedish airports/airstrips have been coded as geographical "markers" if UFO reports should occur in the vicinity. Coding of other interesting geographical sites/objects is expected (mines, radio/TV towers, power stations, etc).

The file will be used by UFO-Sweden's field investigators, for instance in tracking **the UFO/phenomenological history of a particular locality**. It is also expected, of course, that we will be able to produce basic **statistics** from the file. More of that in coming issues of the AFU Newsletter.

## High-quality investigation of 1946 CEII case

In February 1995, the most detailed and thorough documentation of a single Scandinavian UFO case ever published arrived at the bookstores. The authors of this outstanding book, "**Mötet i gläntan**" (Encounter in the glade), are **Clas Svahn** and **Gösta Carlsson**. Clas Svahn - the investigator of the case - is a journalist with Sweden's largest daily morning newspaper, Dagens Nyheter. He is also chairman of UFO-Sweden, a national research group with 2.000 members, as well as vice chairman of Archives for UFO Research (AFU). Co-author Gösta Carlsson - the experimenter - contributes facts and comments on his private encounter story and on his life. The emphasis of the book is on Clas Svahn's down-to-the-smallest-detail inspection of the case. The book is heavily illustrated (some 110 illustrations) and well-referenced (8 pages of tightly spaced source notes and a 14 page chronological bibliography).

**Gösta Carlsson** is wellknown in Sweden as "**the Pollen king**" because of his inventions for producing and refining pollen for drugs. His unique ideas in this field, ideas he now openly claims he received from aliens he made contact with in 1946, helped him build local industries that engaged hundreds of people, and to become the millionaire sponsor of a very successful ice-hockey team. Carlsson's May 1946 encounter with a landed discoid "space-ship", and crew, was first published by space journalist Eugen Semitjov in 1971. An early English version of the case, "The Ängelholm landing report", may be found in Flying Saucer Review, volume 17, no. 2 (March-April 1972).

At first glance, Gösta Carlsson does not seem to be the kind of person you easily dispose of as a dreamer, or as a cultist. His background is quite impressive. And Carlsson even claims he owns "the real thing", a mysterious ring and a strange semi-transparent rod, objects he says he picked up in the glade the day after the encounter. Both objects are colour-photographed in the book, mysteriously carried to the doorsteps of Carlsson's south-Swedish home - by a mysterious, unknown courier - especially for the photo occasion, and then (presumably) returned to an unknown laboratory.

The wealthy Gösta Carlsson claims he has had (or is still having) these objects analyzed by laboratories in Germany and the US. The problem is just that he cannot produce satisfactory original documentation of any such scientific analysis. Carlsson has had decades of time - AND the money resources - to produce proof of the uniqueness of these objects in his possession. Why does he hesitate..?

Although intensely interrogated by Svahn at successive meetings during seven years, "the Pollen king", in the end, comes out as a mystic who **ought** to be the one who could deliver "proof", but who, as is so common among contactees, **fail** to do so. In his first-and-only close encounter in 1946 and in his

subsequent "dreams" (he claims regular "visits" and talks with the aliens through night-time, dreamlike experiences) the details of his story come very close to contemporary contactees like **George Adamski** and **Helge Lindroos** (a Finnish contactee). Svahn has vacuum-cleaned the literature for comparison data to use in his analysis.

May 1946 saw the onset of the wellknown wave of "**ghost rockets**", peaking in July and August. In a short chapter on these phenomena Svahn states that only one out of 1.500 "ghost rocket" reports details something similar to the "flying saucer" Gösta Carlsson encountered in the glade. "The question is if the Gösta Carlsson story and the ghost rockets have anything at all in common", writes Svahn.

To promote interest in his alien contact story Gösta Carlsson has built a miniature replica of the "space ship" he saw almost 50 years ago for all to see. The model of concrete, in the glade where it all happened, has become a tourist attraction.

Clas Svahn's investigation balances well between belief and disbelief. In this way the book - and Carlsson's full story - would deserve a much wider international audience. It may well serve as a model for any detailed UFO case investigation.

Anders Liljegren

## Ghost fliers and rockets: Study projects

**Jan Wall**, an associate professor at the Gothenburg Institute for Language and Folklore Studies, is collecting information on the Swedish/Scandinavian waves of ghost fliers (1930's) and ghost rockets (1946). At his institution he has collected copies of more than 1.000 contemporary written testimonies (mainly reports collected by local policemen) and he has performed some 100 personal interviews. Jan Wall is aiming at a scientific report to be completed within a few years.

Analyzing the cases, Jan Wall has found out that twelve of the very best cases of "ghost fliers" from the 1930's lack substantial evidence.

Wall's project is the last in a number of study projects in this area, but the first by someone with scientific credentials. **Archives for UFO Research** (Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn) has collected documents, reports and interviews on ghost fliers since 1977 and ghost rockets since 1984. Quite a lot of people have been interviewed, particularly witnesses of the 1946 ghost rockets. An English translation of this resource of information awaits funding. **Sven Wäsström**, a former intelligence officer from Uppsala was planning a book on these phenomena (particularly the ghost flier) some ten years ago, but it seems the project failed. **Göran Jansson**, a TV producer from Uppsala, recently completed a Swedish manuscript on the 1946 wave, based on the War Archives documents, but has failed to find a publisher. **Jan Waernberg**, an aviation historian, has documented the Swedish Air

Force's 1934 "hunt" for the ghost fliers (published by the Swedish Aviation Historical Society). **Ole Jonny Braenne** of Oslo has copied thousands of documents on the ghost fliers from Norwegian archives, a material now on loan to AFU for copying and co-ordination with our Swedish data. One of our AFU employees, **Susanna Lindblad**, is working full-time on the project of creating a report archive of all our ghost flier data and computer coding of same.

## Letter to the editor: Balloon - not a "missile"

Dear Mr. Liljegren,

Thank you for the AFU Newsletter 37. I was astonished to read in your newsletter your paper about the August 15, 1985, Swiss-Italian border case. As I wrote in *Ovni-Présence* 36 (unfortunately, it missed in your archives!), this case was caused by a UFO-Solar balloon launched 2-3 hours before by a Swiss family from Monte Pianezzo (canton Ticino). I have met and interviewed this family.

Sincerely,  
Bruno Marcusi,  
Payerne, Switzerland

Editor: Thank you for sending issue 36, and other missing issues, of your excellent magazine (*OVNI-Présence*, Case postale 102, CH-1000 Luusanne 7 St-Paul, Switzerland) to the AFU archives, and sorry that we flunked in this case!

### AFU Newsletter

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# AFU Sponsornytt mars 1995

**Vi minns Åke Franzén:** I mitten av februari fick vi budskapet att Åke Franzén avlidit 58 år gammal. När Håkan och jag träffade Åke första gången 1973 var vi imponerade av den reslige mannen som var vän med John Keel och som själv intervjuat amerikanska vittnen till den mystiska "Mothman" i West Virginia. Åke höll på att "fastna" i USA, han förälskade sig i ett av de vittnen han träffade. Åke ägde en humor som gjorde hans årliga sommarbesök i Norrköping till höjdpunkter för oss torra arkivarier. Jag minns den senaste sommarens långa promenad, i högsommarvärmen, från minigolfbanan. Åke hade det svårt med sin höft, men humöret var trots detta på topp. Åkes fascination för ubåtskränkningar och spökflyg var obruten. Intresset för det mystiska och svårförklarliga var lågan i hans liv.

Håkan och Clas hämtade den 3-4 mars Åkes samling av böcker, tidskrifter, korrespondens, foton. Samlingen har donerats av Åkes två döttrar. Delar av materialet var på väg bort, i sopsäckar, till ett ovisst öde, men räddades nu. Åke var storläsare av engelskspråkiga UFO/forteana/SF-magasin som han prenumerade på eller köpte i Stockholm: Saga, UFO Report, Fate, Fortean Times, FSR, Starlog, m.fl. Åkes tidningar och böcker fyller många hål i våra hyllor. Åke korresponderade med kända forteaner som John Keel och Bob Rickard, ett material som nu också bevaras på arkivet, liksom det exemplar av "Operation Trojan Horse" Keel dedikerade till Åke. Jag kan se Åkes spjuveraktiga leende när han från sin himmel (och från det porträtt Håkan gjort i ordning i arkivet) ser vilket "jäkla" arbete han ställt till med för oss i Norrköping. Jag tror ändå att Åke kan känna en viss tillfredsställelse med att hans samling nu tas om hand av själsfränder.

**Utbyte videofilmer:** Arthur Engh, P.O.-Box 196, N-7601 Levanger, Norge (tel och fax +4774083573) skrev och vill byta videoinspelningar om UFO/övernaturligheter. Någon som har möjlighet att hjälpa Arthur..?

**Rapportarkivet/databasen:** Jörgen Granlie lämnade i början av jan. en diskette med de 1.221 fall han kodat in i databasen för åren 1960-1968. Antalet kodade poster i rapportdatabasen är nu **12.000!** Fantastiskt, eller hur? Vinterns gäng på arkivet **Mattias Andersson, Zusanne Sefastsson, Roland Olofsson, Gudrun Eberhard** och **Stefan Wennerberg** har gjort en berömvärd insats. Under december-mars har de succesivt slutat sina perioder hos oss. **Nu är snart alla sven-**

**ska UFO-fall 1946-1992 registrerade.** Från 1/2 har **Mikael Cederlund** tagit över registreringen av de delar av det **svenska** rapportarkivet som återstår, bland annat retroaktivt material. Mikael, som är datatekniker, har också fått ny fart på ett par av våra äldre datorer. Mikael kommer via "kommunalt arbete" (Norrköpings kommun), men tillhör de lyckliga som har goda chanser att få ett nytt riktigt jobb, vilket förmodligen innebär att vi snart förlorar honom.

**Irre Bredin** slutade den 28/2 sitt ALU men fortsätter att registrera norska rapporter samtidigt som hon jobbar med UFO-Sveriges marknadsföring och Marteboprojektet. Irre hoppas få en ny ALU-period.

**Rapport- och klipparkiv om spökflygarna:**

Från 6/2 jobbar **Susanna Lindmark** hos AFU, främst med att lägga upp ett klipp- och rapport-arkiv över 30-talets spökflygare. Susanna utgår från min (AL:s) samling och arbetar delvis i hemmet. Hon kommer att påbörja en databas över fallen. Susanna är kemiingenjör och har tidigare forskat på VTI i Linköping. Susanna ska också jobba med att marknadsföra AFU mot forskningsbibliotek/universitet.

**Föreningsarkivet:** Från 20/2 och fem månader framåt har vi engagerat **Kjell Johansson** som ALU hos oss. Kjell var tidigare anställd av Landsarkivet i Vadstena och jobbade med myndighetsarkiv i syd-Sverige. Kjell är väl kvalificerad att ta hand om vårt föreningsarkiv och har börjat med UFO-Sveriges arkivalier, bl.a. årtionden av korrespondens. Kjells städar, ordnar och gör riktiga förteckningar över våra förenings- och personarkiv.

**Artikeldatabas:** I och med att den svenska rapportdatabasen snart är klar (i varje fall fas ett i det projektet) kommer våra datorer att användas för att skapa en artikeldatabas. **Ann-Britt Eriksson** började med svenska tidskrifter den 13/3 och **Jessica Larsson** börjar den 27/3 med någon engelskspråkig tidskrift. Både Ann-Britt och Jessica är ALU-anställda.

**Besök på arkivet:** Den 9/2 var åter Pia Andersson hos oss för diskussioner kring hennes uppsatsprojekt vid Stockholms universitet.

**Planeringskonferens:** Till slut, missa inte UFO-Sveriges planeringskonferens den 22/4 kl. 14.00 på LjuraKnuten i Norrköping. Lokalen ligger alldeles intill AFU:s arkiv. Ta gärna med dig någon vän eller bekant som du tror kan bli en framtida sponsor av arkivet. Inbjudan till plan.konferensen bifogas.

Anders Liljegren